



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Michael P. Nolin
Commissioner

January 25, 2006

Representative David L. Babson Jr., Chairman
Environment and Agriculture Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 303
Concord, NH 03301

SUBJECT: HB 1551, an act establishing a committee to study incentives for reducing consumer solid waste for disposal in landfills and incinerators

Dear Chairman Babson and Members of the Committee:

HB 1551 seeks to study "pay-as-you-throw" programs and other incentives to reduce the amount of consumer solid waste disposed in landfills and incinerators. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this bill.

DES supports recycling in all its forms to reduce demand on scarce landfill and incinerator capacity and to conserve natural resources. In its 2004 report to the legislature on solid waste, DES reported that the state's overall recycling rate was 32.4%, an increase over past years and a positive step in meeting our 40% recycling goal. However, the residential recycling rate during that same period was only 7.4% while the commercial rate was 25%. In 2004, the per capita disposal rate in New Hampshire was 6.1 pounds/person/day compared to a national average of 4.3 pounds/person/day. Unquestionably, a greater level of residential recycling can and should be achieved.

National and local data indicate that pay-as-you-throw programs have the effect of increasing recycling and lowering solid waste disposal rates. DES supports HB 1551 to study incentives to bring about an increase in recycling and a lowering of disposal rates.

DES appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of this bill. If you have any questions regarding this letter of testimony, please do not hesitate to call me or Tony Giunta, P.G. at 271-2905.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Nolin, Ass't Comm.
for Michael P. Nolin
Commissioner

cc: Representative Frank Tupper
Representative John Cloutier
Representative Candace Bouchard
Representative Elizabeth Blanchard
Representative James Powers
Senator Margaret Hassan